

To the Honorable Commissioners of the FCC:

I am writing to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I am hereby submitting my indication of support for retaining or increase all the FCC rules which set limits on concentration of the broadcast industry and serve the public interest by preserving diversity of ownership in the broadcast marketplace. These rules are; The Television-Radio Cross-Ownership Rule, The Broadcast-Newspaper Cross Ownership Ban, The National Television Ownership Rule, The Duopoly Rule for Radio, The Local Television Ownership Rule, and The Dual Network Rule.

If the Commission has the inclination to extend its protections further into the area of protecting the democratic exchange of views and information, I appeal to you to stimulate a more rigorous enforcement of the anti-trust and anti-monopoly laws with respect to the print media. Consolidation of the nation's newspapers into the hands of a very few mega-corporations has has a very deleterious effect on the public's discussion of controversial ideas in the political spectrum.

The possiblity of carrying on informed debate and discussion of current events, both locally and globally, is an absolute prerequisite for our democracy to function. Even now, the venues for sharing information are restricted to the owners and managers of major corporate media outlets, with the result that the quality and variety of the information presented has deterioriated.

As a creator of independent media, <http://www.quixote-quest.org> , I know first hand the importance of freedom of expression. The ability to say things that are potentially challenging to society's sacred cows and special interests must be widely available. Already it is impossible to contact large audiences outside the established system.

In the current situation, the commercial interest inevitably compromises the public interest. The FCC now has rules limiting ownership to preserve the diversity of a healthy marketplace of ideas. If the FCC undermines this diversity by removing the rules, it destroys the future of the marketplace as a source of diverse points of view.

A functioning democracy depends on a media open to independent and unconventional news and political opinion. If we exist in an authoritarian environment in which our news outlets have merged together, both print and broadcast, our access to open informed discussion is restricted.

I urge you to rule in the public interest on this matter. The public interest will be served by preserving the FCC's Broadcast Media ownership rules.

Thank you,
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